Money wasted for image building by CIL

1645. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Coal India Ltd. has been burning public money on an image making exercise;

(b) whether it is also a fact that it has been giving largesse to a private club in Kolkata and has also spent Rs. 10 lacs on a PR exercise; and

(c) the action Government have taken to curb the expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No, Sir. CIL spends only a miniscule part of its overall profit on publicity as a part of an overall corporate strategy.

(b) CIL has not been given any amount to any private club on continuous basis. However, it made a one time contribution of Rs. 10 lacs of Kolkata club as a co-sponsor of an event known as "International Evening" organized by them. As reported by CIL part of the funds raised on the occasion were to be reserved for the betterment of the weaker sections of society and to be contributed to the Governor's or Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

(c) The Government have been underscoring the need to exercise austerity and prudence in order to achieve efficient cost management by public sector enterprises. The case of above mentioned donation is being looked into.

Lignite resources in Cauvery belt of Tamil Nadu

1646. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal mining activities are already under operation in Jayam kondam cholapuram and some other places in Couvery bed of Tamil Nadu for lignite production.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, Government's plan for mining the lignite resources found in those areas and by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) In Tamil Nadu, lignite mining operations are going on in three mining blocks *viz.*, Mine-I, Mine-II and Mine-IA in Neyveli, which is the Northern part of Cauvery basin. Lignite mining in Jayamkondacholapuram (Jayamkondam) area has not yet started.

(c) Detailed exploration has been taken up by NLC in Jayamkondam block. Advance Action Plan (AAP) to carry out certain pre-project activities for development of Jayamkondam project has been approved. Lignite production from Jayamkondam mine is expected to commence by the end of XI Plan.

Allotment of coal blocks in Jharkhand

†1647. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States and companies where from applications have been received for the allotment of coal blocks from the coal mines at Jharkhand and State-wise details thereof;

(b) the details of States and companies that have been allotted coal blocks; and

(c) the criteria of allotment of coal blocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Applications have been received from the following State Public Sector Undertakings (State PSUs) for allotment of coal blocks located in the State of Jharkhand:

Sl. No.	Name of the State	State PSUs	Name of blocks
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation	Rajbar, Banhardih, Latehar, Jainagar
2.	Bihar	Bihar Rajya Khanij Vikas Nigam	Rajbar, Banhardih, Gomia, Jainagar, Saddampur
3.	Chhattisgarh	Chhattisgarh State Electricity Board	Rajbar, Banhardih, Latehar
4.	Gujarat	Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation	Rajbar, Banhardih, Latehar, Jainagar

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.